

55. The 244 cases of compounded offences are classified according to the amount of the fine paid in the following statement :—

No.	Division.	No. of Cases in which Compensation was fixed at Rupees																											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	
1	East Thána	51	10	1	4	3	5	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	87	
2	West Thána	34	17	3	5	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	77	
3	Surat	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	
4	Panch Maháls	42	10	7	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	73	
	Total	130	40	12	12	9	9	6	1	1	2	3	1	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	1	2	1	1	1	244	

56. The information given in the following statement is in accordance with paragraph 11 of Government Resolution No. 1899, dated 15th March 1891 :—

No.	Division.	Number of complaints disposed of under Section 87.	Number of cases in which Compensation has been accepted.	Number of appeals against the proceedings.	Manner in which the appeals have been disposed of.	Remarks.
1	East Thána	87	87	...	...	
2	West Thána	114	77	...	...	In 37 cases offenders were let off with a warning.
3	Surat	10	7	...	...	Do. 3 do. do.
4	Panch Maháls	79	73	...	...	Do. 6 do. do.
	Total	290	244	...	...	46

— (b) (2)—Protection from Fire.

57. The results of the year's fire protection, as compared with those of the year 1892-93, are shown below :—

Number.	Division.	Forest Area placed under protection against Fire.		Acreage burned.		Percentage burned.	
		1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.
		Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.
1	East Thána	451,956	451,907	18,515	17,700	4.09	3.9
2	West Thána	358,719	247,344	5,462	6,680	1.5	2.7
3	Surat	478,141	478,237	434,990	443,747	90.9	92.8
4	Panch Maháls	213,575	217,530	3,944	17,276	1.8	7.9
	Total	1,502,391	1,391,018	462,911	485,403	30.7	34.9

58. The areas recorded as burnt are much the same as those of last year, except in the Panch Maháls, where four times last year's area is reported to have been burnt in 1893-94. Mr. Fisher attributes this to more correct reporting of areas burnt. He writes : "The above figures are no doubt misleading and should be taken to indicate the submission of more complete reports of the areas burnt. There is no doubt that last year the area burnt was much under-estimated and often no reports at all were submitted. This matter having received special attention the system of reporting was much better carried out. Probably no greater area was burnt this year than last." The Collector, it will be seen (para. 121), does not attach much weight to this recorded opinion. I confess, I think, the reason advanced by Mr. Fisher is the true one for a large part of the difference, for there is no reason why the area burnt should have so largely increased, especially when, as stated by Mr. Fisher, his attention was specially directed to fire protection.

59. The Thána system of fire protection was in force during the year in Surat and the Panch Maháls.

60. It is satisfactory to be able to record that there is almost unanimous testimony to the general good-will of the villagers in assisting to extinguish fires.

61. The following is a statement showing the expenditure on burning fire lines and paying rewards to villagers, &c. :—

No.	Division.	Expenditure.		Remarks.
		1892-93.	1893-94.	
		Rs.	Rs.	
1	East Thána ...	1,576	1,520	
2	West Thána ...	2,029	2,520	
3	Surat ...	186	380	
4	Panch Maháls ...	...	69	
	Total ...	3,791	4,489	

(b) (3).—*Regulation of Grazing and Protection from Cattle.*

62. In paragraph 97 of last year's report a mistake was made inasmuch as the introduction of the grazing rules in the Panch Maháls Division was said to be in contemplation whereas they had actually been introduced. With this exception that paragraph might stand in the present report.

63. Dr. Pollen, Collector of the Panch Maháls, writes doubtfully both of the necessity and the actuality of the closure against grazing in his district (*vide* para. 121). This failure was attributed in last year's report (para. 100) to the inefficiency of the establishment, and I think to this may be added want of the organization of the forests. Both these adverse factors, it is to be hoped, will be removed in the near future.

64. The following statement gives the number of animals impounded for trespassing in the open and closed forests during the year :—

No.	Division.	From open Forests.		From closed Forests.		Total.	
		1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.
1	East Thána ...	421	230	1,260	2,086	1,681	2,316
2	West Thána ...	67	161	1,598	1,280	1,665	1,441
3	Surat ...	314	1,070	927	1,869	1,241	2,939
4	Panch Maháls ...	1,464	661	226	1,980	1,690	2,641
	Total ...	2,266	2,122	4,011	7,215	6,277	9,337

There is an increase in the total of 50 per cent., chiefly in Surat and Panch Maháls, but in actual numbers the increase is not large, and at any rate in Surat, is declared by the Collector to be "not excessive." Dr. Pollen writes severely about the increase in his district; but with all due deference to his recorded opinion I would submit that a total of 2,641 animals impounded in a district with a forest area of nearly 150,000 acres cannot be called excessive. The now almost universally accepted opinion that the admission of cattle is detrimental to forest growth does not, however, seem to be accepted by Dr. Pollen.

*Fencing.*

65. No new fences were erected in the East Thána Division but the old ones were kept in repair.

66. In the West Thána Division the work left unfinished last year was completed and very little new work carried out. This latter was in the Bassein Range where altogether during the year 35,003 running feet of fencing was completed at a cost of Rs. 710.